

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02715 161243Z

44

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /015 W
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O R 161232Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3998

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2715

USIAC

USIA FOR INA, IOP/M

STATE FOR CU/NEA.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: N/A

SUBJ: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS - JULY 9-15, 1975

REF: USIA 16482

1. PSYCHOLOGICAL SITUATION: WITH RETURN OF CALM TO LEBANON LOCAL PRESS ATTENTION RETURNED TO BROAD MIDEAST POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND CONTINUED ATTACKS AGAINST IRAQI REGIME. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TALKS WITH GROMYKO AND RABIN HANDLED MOSTLY AS STRAIGHT NEWS ITEMS. GENERAL THEME OF SPARCE EDITORIAL COVERAGE WAS PESSIMISM ENGENDERED BY WHAT EDITORS SAW AS ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE AND HOLLOWNESS OF U.S. PROMISES FOR SOLUTION TO CRISIS. ALSO PROMINENT IN PRESS COVERAGE WAS GENERAL INDICATION OF INCREASINGLY CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH JORDAN.

2. AMHERST GLEE CLUB COMPLETED REASONABLY SMOOTH TWOHDAY STAY IN DAMASCUS HIGHLIGHTED BY INFORMAL CONCERT AT RESIDENCE AND FORMAL CONCERT IN ATTRACTIVE SETTING OF AZEM PALACE. FORMAL CONCERT WAS WELL ATTENDED (325) CONSIDERING SHORT NOTICE. MINCULTURE, WHO CO-SPONSORED GROUP, WAS HIGHLY PLEASED WITH
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MUSICIANSHIP AND PRESENCE OF GROUP. CONSERVATORY

DIRECTOR CHARACTERIZED PERFORMANCE AS "IMPORTANT
MUSICALLY, AND THOROUGHLY SUCCESSFUL."

3. PAO HELD LUNCHEON JULY 15 FOR NEA PA ADVISER
GEORGE SHERMAN, FULBRIGHT PROF. OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS,
JACK SHAHEEN, AND FONMIN OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH
MEDIA AFFAIRS. "GOLAN" SEGMENT OF "ARABS AND ISRAELIS"
SERIES WAS SHOWN BEFORE LUNCH AND LED TO DISCUSSION
OF U.S. MEDIA TREATMENT OF MIDEAST ISSUES.

4. MEDIA REACTION BERBERA BASE. JULY 6 AND 7 LOCAL
DAILIES CARRIED SHORT ITEMS ON INSIDE PAGES ON
BERBERA BASE CONTRAVERSY. ITEMS WERE PICKED UP FROM
TASS AND PRAVDA, NO WESTERN SOURCES, AND SIMPLY
REPORTED SOMALI DENIALS OF PRESENCE SOVIET BASE. NO
EDITORIAL COMMENT, THOUGH ITEMS USED WORD "MAZA'IM"
(PRETENSE) WHEN DESCRIBING U.S. ACCUSATIONS.
KEITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 16 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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